

vated area with acute borders; lower margin elliptically curved, internally crenulated. Surface with elliptical costæ, regular in the young shell, subsequently degenerating into irregular and unequal elevations, more especially when the surface exhibits arrests of growth; the costæ are not much raised, rounded, and fully equal in breadth to the interstitial spaces (about thirty-two in a full-grown specimen); the entire surface has fine striations, which follow the direction of the costæ.

Specimens vary much in their length and obliquity; but none are comparable to the Oxford Clay shell figured in the 'Illustrations of the Geology of Yorkshire' under the name of *Astarte lurida*: the large anterior side and the small lunule mark the latter as a distinct species.

Several examples of *Astarte lurida* were obtained in the upper portion of the Upper Lias in a mill-stream cutting at Holcomb; it has also occurred very abundantly a little higher in the geological scale, in the lower zone of the Cynocephala-stage at Nailsworth. D'Orbigny ('Prodrôme') places it in his "Étage Bajocien," which is probably an error; the English localities cited by him (Fox Hill and Taunton) are not Inferior Oolite; nor does it appear that the latter formation, although so rich in the genus *Astarte*, has ever produced *A. lurida*.

XXVII.—Description of a new species of Grass Finch from New Caledonia. By JOHN MACGILLIVRAY, F.R.G.S.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN, Port de France, New Caledonia, May 18, 1858.

During my short residence at this portion of New Caledonia, I have had the opportunity of collecting and preparing a few specimens of birds, one of which is of sufficient interest to induce me again to become a contributor to the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' by sending you a brief notice of a new Finch, which I propose to name *Poëphila Paddoni*, in honour of Capt. James Paddon,—not because he has done so much in promoting civilization among the islands of the S.W. Pacific, but because he has at all times cordially assisted Botanists and other Naturalists who, like myself, have visited his stations at Aneiteum, Tana, the Isle of Pines, and New Caledonia. This *Poëphila* interests me especially as being a member of a genus hitherto considered as exclusively Australian as *Eopsaltria*, *Tropidorhynchus*, *Ptilotis*, *Acanthiza*, and *Zosterops*, now for the first time recorded as being found in New Caledonia. The Finch in question more resembles the Australian *P. mirabilis* (of Hombr. and

Jacq. in 'Voy. of Astrolabe and Zéléc'), which also I believe to be specifically identical with *P. Gouldiæ*, than any other described species, especially in the scarlet and green of its beautiful plumage.

Poëphila Paddoni, J. M^cG. Rostro nigro; fronte, sincipite, gula, pectoreque phœniceis; uropygio pennisque duobus centralibus caudæ supra rubro-phœniceis; loris cæruleo-iridibus; cæteris partibus corporis metallico-iridibus; tarsis, digitis et unguibus atro-fuscis.

Mas. Rostro 0·3, ala 2·25, cauda 2·0; toto corpore 4·1 in long. unciæ Anglicæ.

Hab. in Nova Caledonia, præsertim apud insulam "Nu" dictam.

By publishing the above contribution, you will oblige,

Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,

JOHN MACGILLIVRAY.

XXVIII.—*Descriptions of some apparently unrecorded species of Longicorn Beetles, belonging to the genera Phrissoma, Nyphona, &c.* By ADAM WHITE, Assistant, Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus.

Phrissoma amycteroides, n. s.

Gen Phantasias

Ph. glabrum, nigrum; thorace medio tuberculo magno postice furcato; elytris singulis lineis tribus spinarum crassarum; tibiis apice brunneo-pilosis.

Smooth, black, shining; last eight joints of antennæ with short brownish pile; lateral spines of thorax sharp, placed forward; between them, in the middle, is a high tubercle, rounded in front and on the top, forked behind; elytra slightly scabrous, each with three longitudinal lines of sharp spine-like tubercles, those of the outer row the smallest; elytra at the widest part not much broader than between the tips of the thoracic spines; tibiæ at the end covered with short light-brown hairs. *hunk femora extend beyond extrem. of elytra*

Length 8 lines.

Hab. Port Natal. (Coll. Guéinzus, in Mus. Brit.)

This longicorn beetle has much resemblance, at first sight, to some of the spined species of the Australian Curculionidous genus *Amycterus*.

Phantasias Phrissoma Hipporhinus, n. s.

Ph. pilosum, fuscum, nigro variegatum; thorace medio tuberculo magno postice emarginato; elytris thorace multo crassioribus, tuberculatis, singulis lineis tribus tuberculorum cæteris paulo majorum.

Pale brown, not very thickly pilose, with small scattered black